

the most part, hold good; and the roughened, dull exterior, feeble rays, and lurid interior of *U. ochraceus*, and the shining epidermis and well defined posterior rays of *U. cariosus* are very constant. *Unio cariosus*, on the whole, approaches much closer to forms of *U. occidentens* than it does to *U. ochraceus*.

The latter ranges from the Connecticut River and the state of New York, south in the waters of the Atlantic drainage to Savannah, Ga. Two specimens from the latter locality have remarkably red interiors, and are a little peculiar, but are undoubtedly the species in question. *Unio cariosus* is found in the vicinity of Quebec, Canada, according to Latchford, and it has been reported from western New York. A doubtful specimen is in the Lea collection from Talledega, Ala. It is in the same collection from Edgefield, S. C., Ogeechee River, Ga., and Columbus, Ga., and these are no doubt correctly named. Other shells in the Lea collection from Neshotch, Wis., and Ontonagon, Mich., are very probably forms of *Unio occidentens*.

NOTES ON THE REPORTED EXTINCTION OF THE GENUS ACHATINELLA
AND MARVELOUS DEVELOPMENT OF A FLORIDA FASCIOLARIA.

BY JOHN FORD.

A most extraordinary account of a collection of shells, located somewhere in the interior of New York State, was handed me by a friend a few days ago.

This purports to have been written by a correspondent of a Rochester newspaper, in the columns of which the article probably first saw the light. The writer, it appears, does not claim any scientific knowledge of shells, nor can it positively be said that his bump of imagination is abnormally developed. Nevertheless, he has given to the paper alluded to, and consequently to the world, some very remarkable bits of information. Information, indeed, which, if true, shows how puny are the geographical and scientific acquirements of the general run of conchological students. Of course, for lack of space in your columns, reference can only be made to one or two of the marvelous statements embraced in the article. One of these refers to the genus *Achatinella*, of which the writer says, "This shell is confined to the Sandwich Islands and its tenant feeds on the

herbage of these islands. Since the islands have been pastured, the 'variety' has almost entirely disappeared, and probably not more than a half dozen specimens could be found there to-day." What a dire calamity! and how remarkable that these pretty little creatures should have "shuffled off their mortal coils" in the very season that less regal robes slipped from the shoulders of their Island Queen.

A few flippant students may question this tale of *starvation* in the midst of *green pastures*, but it will perhaps be well for them to pickle their opinions, since the positive assertions of "correspondents" are not to be trifled with. The shell expert who can doubt this starvation story would quite as likely question the following narrative said to have been written by the "experienced collector" who forwarded the shell referred to, to the aforesaid unparalleled New York aggregation, viz.; "The large Florida *Fasciolaria* father found one day by accident.

"While drifting about in Florida waters his boat suddenly touched what seemed to be a rock but it proved to be an immense specimen of the *Fasciolaria* (sic), alive and travelling." "This specimen weighs several hundred pounds."

A brief statement to be sure, but a graphic one, as the reader will admit. There is not a word, however, as to whether the boat was wrecked in its "sudden" contact with the limy mass "weighing several hundred pounds."

Nor is there any reference to the final disposition of that part of "the *Fasciolaria*" which, when struck, was "alive and travelling." But this fact matters little, perhaps, since we are assured that the "several hundred pounds" were gotten safely to the shore, and finally into that collection of shells which (I quote again) "is expected to be in a short time the most complete and valuable one, from a scientific standpoint, in the world."

Presumably this monster of "Florida Waters" is known to Science as *Fasciolaria gigantea*, but alas! how pitiable has been the ignorance of the scores of so-called conchological experts who have hitherto believed that this, the largest species of the genus, did not exceed a paltry ten pounds in weight. Think of it, ye academic plodders who for years have been gazing with wonder upon a petty *eight* pounder, imagining the while that Florida had utterly failed to produce anything larger in the same line. O, the pity of it! You that have given years of study and thought to the molluscan world,

how could you so mistake a pigmy for a giant, a veritable baby for a grandfather? Far better would it have been had you made a Mecca of the Empire State and sat at the feet of its astute correspondent, whose present throne is, doubtless, ye same old *Fasciolaria*, "alive and travelling" and "weighing several hundred pounds."

NOTE ON *HELIX SAULIE* PFR (non REEVE)=*PALUMBA SOUVERBIE*.

BY HUGH FULTON, LONDON.

Owing to an error in Reeve's Monograph some confusion has been caused as to the identity of the above species; both Pilsbry and Hidalgo have taken Reeve's description and figure (Conch. Icon., fig. 393) as being that of the type of *saulie*, consequently, and with reason, they have considered the *palumba* of *Souverbie* to be distinct from the former species. The fact is, that when Reeve described and figured his *saulie*, he had not the type of that species before him; the type specimen of Pfeiffer's *saulie* in the Cumingian collection, is identical with the *palumba* of *Souverbie*, Journ. de Conchyl., 1858, p. 369; 1862, t. 10, f. 5.

I have not been able to find in the Cumingian collection the shell figured by *Reeve*.

SHELLS OF AROOSTOOK CO., MAINE.

COLLECTED BY OLOF O. NYLANDER.

The species listed below were collected in the vicinity of Caribou, Maine. Aroostook County is the northern county in Maine, and very few species have hitherto been reported from there. The specimens of *Limnæa* and *Planorbis* show great variation, the forms of *L. emarginata* are especially interesting.

Vitrina limpida Gld. Caribou.

Vitrea arborea Say.

Conulus fulvus Mull.

Pyramidula alternata Say. Woodland.

Pyramidula striatella Anth.

Pyramidula lineata Say.

Polygyra albolabris Say. Woodland.

Polygyra dentifera Binn. Woodland.